

574 the civilities which it is customary to render to men. If someone
576 else greets them they respond with the women's greeting. [156]

When Caribs meet after a long period of absence from each other, they embrace each other impelled by reasons of joy or sadness. Mutually resting their head on the shoulder of the other, each rests one knee on the ground. They begin a sad chant and go so far as to weep and sob, even continuing to weep for a long time after. This is especially true when the visitor arrives during a drinking party as I have seen happen at the arrival of a Balibi. [233]

362 When the Caribs go to feasts their women paint them red and wash their faces and wipe them. Then the women spread their fingers which are reddened with paint and press them on their husband's faces, which disguises their features so well that one has difficulty recognizing them. [298]

293 The skin of the jaguar has short, red hair. All the Caribs who have been to South America have such a skin. When they come to their feasts each carries his own in ornamentation trailing it ten or twelve feet behind him, with the claws of the Manséni hawk arranged on two sticks across their backs. They believe that this communicates to them courage and valor. When they are gashed with the teeth of an agouti and are bleeding they grind up the jaguar skin and rub the powder on the wound. This heals the wound very well without any inflammation or boils, even when they have been previously rubbed with pepper and pimento. [100]

35 I have seen young men at feasts stand in the middle of the carbet with their hands upon their heads allowing anyone to beat them with arrows, similar to blows given with the flat of a sword. I have seen others just after the greater part of their bodies had been gashed, who allowed people to rub them all over with the body of a Manséni together with a great deal of pepper which had been crushed between two rocks. God knows that they become hot after that. Others, not at the time of these drinking parties, stood up in the same place, and old women beat them with pineapples leaves which they hold by the points. With the spines they scratch them by dragging them across their bodies, for the pineapple leaves are like saws except that the spines are more treacherously sharp and pointed. All of this is designated by the term "He has passed by the lances." [132]

304 hair. It reminds one of a French comb. [180] They wear a well-made cap of reeds around which feathers are attached in the shape of a crown. It is most proper that these beautiful feathers are arranged here. [310, 401] The Caribs wear a necklace made from clear and almost transparent fish bones. This ornament is almost always worn with a caracoll ornament. [368] The women wear a large sash made like a horse's barb when they go to feasts, and from the sash hang tassels and little bells which make a sound which harmonises with their dancing. [367] The women wear imitation green stones as ornaments but they do not prize them greatly. [346]

291 There is a cotton band four fingers wide which covers the shameful parts and is called niotaiouli or in the women's language niéve. The island Caribs never wear them and go entirely naked. [23] They have a small double cap made of otalloman reed with cachibou leaves between the two layers. They are used by some of Caribs at sea, or to protect their heads during showers, or against the rigors of the sun. They do not often wear them. [245]

304 The leggings of the women are called echépoulou. They put them on their own legs, and they are so firmly tightened that they cause the calf of the leg to swell. When they paint their husbands red they always rub their hands on their leggings, so that they finally make them stiff. The leggings shrink when they become wet. To avoid this accident I have seen a girl walking on her two hands, which were stretched out behind her back, when she crossed a stream and her mother carried her two feet. The mother looked like a poddler pushing a wheelbarrow. At that time it amazed me because I did not know the cause of this mystery. The end of the legging extends to the ankle and is surrounded by a round edge which is pliable and does not hamper. The echépoulârou is the garter woven in the same way as the leggings which surrounds the upper part of the calf. The wives of the Caribs consider these leggings to be the most beautiful of their ornaments and the most unquestioned sign of their freedom. This is the reason why they never allow any slave woman to wear them. [197] The men do not have corns on the feet because they don't wear shoes. The women do not have corns on their feet because they don't wear shoes either, but they do have them around their ankles where the leggings end, because the leggings bind them strongly there. To get rid of these they take the second bark of the hamatta which they slip under their leggings and this cures them. [87]

757 them, and all the above mentioned remedies heal without steam
 [24] baths or mercury. Conversely, small pox which is very rare among
 them is very dangerous in the same way that the plague is for us in
 France. [478]

761 They believe that pains in the joints such as gout are caused by
 98 the boyes of South America and their gods. [426] They use a light-
 colored green stone as a remedy for kidney stones, to help women
 give birth, and for epilepsy. The women hang them around their neck
 like one of the most precious of their jewels. They receive them
 from the men who bring them from South America. There are also
 957 imitation green stones which have no value. [445] The rihoulich

[344] is a true rush if one of its roots is crushed and absorbed in some liquor
 by a woman in childbirth; it makes the delivery easy, but if too much
 is taken the child will be harmed as has been actually seen. [438]

[144] Ophthalmia is a common disease among the Caribs which appears al-
 most every year, and is spread in the islands inhabited by the Caribs.
 It causes a fair number among them to be one-eyed. During the first
 five or six years this evil did not seem to approach the French, but
 now it makes its violence felt too often. [397] The Caribs purge
 themselves only when they are extremely sick. However, they only
 eat crabs, lambs, iguana, and some other poor nourishment which
 causes many boils. They pierce some boils with a ray's tail and
 squeeze the others to empty them. If the pus is such that it will not
 come out they take a hair which they dip into it and empty it. [340]

757 The chibouleme is a common weed which the Caribs boil in water.

291 They then use the herb to relieve themselves from constipation. [147]
 The Caribs shred the skin of the palm Christi and make a compress for
 the forehead as a remedy for headache. They heat the leaf and rub the
 afflicted part with it and receive relief. [25] Balinum is a herb with a
 stench used as remedy against fever. [171]

● 952 When the Caribs rid themselves of chiggers they make a small
 cut with a fish bone or a sharp little splinter and press them between
 their nails and make them leave. They also use shark oil or porpoise
 oil to make them leave or urucu mixed with oil of couabeu. [148]

757 Herbs which cure the wounds made by poison arrows are called
 [24] houlala. [475] To cure arrow wounds they use a palma Christi leaf
 which they warm on the fire and rub on the wound. According to
 Captain Baron one of his hosts had been hit in the heel by a poisoned

13: Hodge & Taylor N. E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

THE SUPPLEMENT OF THE ISLAND CARIB OF DOMINICA

227

Eleusine indica (Linnaeus) Gaertner, *Fruct. & Sem.* 1: 8. 1788.

824^c

Pow's Foot, Field Poole.

A weedy grass native to India but widely distributed in the tropical and warm temperate regions of both hemispheres.

Caribs crush the plant with salt and apply it as a poultice [752] ●

to sprains and dislocations.

Specimens citation: 182, 2482, 2470.

Gynerium sagittatum (Aubllet) Beauvois, *Ess. Agricul.* 138. t. 24. f. 1812.

Arundo saccharoides Poiret in Lam. *Encycl. Sup.* 4: 703. 1816.
Arrow, Wild Canoe. — *Roucan*. — *balwa* (m) (c arrow, c pierce),
mabla, *mabla*.

This tall reed is found throughout tropical America where it is widely used as laths in light construction work. It is to be seen in Dominica chiefly along stream-banks where it often forms colonies in full sunlight. The grass is grown by the Parana River Caribs of Guiana under the name *mapara opai*. From the stems they fashion shafts for arrows.

For plaiting bands subsequently sewn together by the Dominica Caribs to make hats, the midrib of the leaf is peeled, bleached by laying it in the dew, and sun-dried. The young main-stem, prepared in the same manner as that of *Ischnosiphon arvensis*, is used for weaving small decorative baskets (either alone or in conjunction with split stems of *Ischnosiphon arvensis*), fans, mats, etc.; while more mature stems are chosen for edging and reinforcing the corners of Carib baskets. Mature inflorescence stems are very straight and were used formerly for arrows as they are by lowland Indians even today in other parts of Latin America. The 'heart' (i.e. the young shoot of unopened leaves) of this species is used as a shampoo when washing the hair (as are the small [215]

[411]

824^x

302

* BAYON (?) lists three aboriginal names for 'roucan'. All probably apply to *Gynerium sagittatum* but we are certain only of *balwa*, which he records: '... it produces its flower at the top, and bears a 'panache' (plume) which when detached leaves a perfectly straight rod'. He states, further, that laths and palisading (wattlework) are made from the stems of the roucan called *mabla*, and baskets from that called *sikabot*. All these uses are still known to the Carib with reference to the ordinary roucan described above.

[417]
285

species of *salles mouche*, which apparently were known as « *langue boeuf* » in the day of Breton (7).

Specimen citation: 1599, 3249, 3664.

ARACEAE. ARUM FAMILY.

Anthurium palmatum (Linnaeus) Kunth, Enum. Pl. 3: 80. 1841.
mûti (generic for « bush-rope »).

« Hard » *mûti*, as this species is called (as opposed to *Monstera pertusa* which is known as « soft » *mûti*), is apparently known only from Dominica where it occurs as a common but weak liana on trunks of trees in moist forests at middle elevations and at lower elevations on the windward coast.

The aerial climbing and binding roots are used by the women for making spiral basketry. After scraping them to remove the cortex, the roots are either dyed yellow by rubbing with a tuber of saffron (*Curatoma longa*) or mauve by rubbing with the moistened leaves of the tree known as *tan* (*Picramnia pentandra*). From the scraping of the bark of *mûti* together with those from the bottom of the conch shell (patois: *lambé*; Carib: *edjabwi*) a concoction was formerly made to be taken as a cure for yaws (Carib: *yéya*, « prickle »).

Specimen citation: 36 (T), 3205, 3248.

Caladium bicolor (Aiton) Ventenat, Descr. Cels. t. 30. 1800.
Dasheen Marbré, Hale Bois.

An American species of uncertain origin but believed to be a native of Amazonia or the Guianas. It is much cultivated as an ornamental for its beautiful leaves.

This arum is esteemed as a yard or house plant in Dominica and frequently escapes.

The Caribs use the heated rhizome as a poultice for extracting splinters.

Specimen citation: 1573.

Colecaulia esculenta (Linnaeus) Schott, Melet. 1: 18. 1832.
Caladium colecaulia W. F. Wight in Contrib. U. S. Nat. Herb. 9: 266. 1905.

- 824
[278]
226
[844]
[515]
- fish from biting by causing their mouths to become soft. Corossol leaves are also boiled alone to produce a tea drunk by those with colds and fever, or by women in labour (parturition); the leaves are also used for bathing (adults or children).

Specimen citation: 398.

Annona reticulata Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 537. 1753.

Custard Apple, Bullock's Heart. — Cachima, Cachima Coeur de Boenf. — *alabellus* (m), *basima*.

This is another common West Indian species, varieties of which produce edible fruits.

- [752]
[278]
- The bark is employed by the Caribs to bandage sprains and dislocations; when so used it is kept moist with salt water. A tea is brewed from cachima leaves, together with the leaves of the pigeon pea [*Cajanus cajan* (L.) Millsp.], and this is drunk by individuals suffering from fever.

Specimen citation: 3358.

Annona squamosa Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 537. 1753.

Sweetsop, Sugar Apple. — Pomme Cannelle. — *kalfiri*.

Like the preceding species this small West Indian tree is widely cultivated for its edible fruit.

- [278]
- The leaves are made into a "tea", drunk as a supposed cure for a painful spleen (a common complaint among Caribs).

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

Guatteria caribaea Urban; Symb. Ant. 4: 240. 1905.

Guatteria aurea Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 7, 1859, non Dunal.

Conanga caribaea Britton in Br. & Willd. Bot. P. R. (Sci. Surv.

Puerto Rico & Virg. Isls. 5). 311. 1924.

Maho (often spelled mahot, mahoe, or mahaut) Noir, Bois Violon.

A medium-sized forest tree found in Puerto Rico and recorded in the Lesser Antilles from Guadeloupe to Grenada.

- [313]
[263]
[394]
- Bois violon possesses a good wood often made by the Caribs into boards. Young specimens of this species are also fashioned into masts for dugouts. The strong bark furnishes a rope fiber from which are constructed the halyards, etc., for sails. Such

BURSERACEAE. GUMBO-LIMBO FAMILY.

- *824 *Bursera simaruba* (Linnaeus) Sargent, Gard. & Forest 3: 260. 1890.

Bursera gummifera Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. ed. 2: 471. 1762.

Elaphrium simaruba Rose in No. Am. Fl. 25: 246. 1911.

Gumbo-Limbo, West Indian Birch, Turpentine Tree, Gum Tree.

— Gommier Rouge.

This conspicuous tree is widespread in the West Indies, also in the continental American tropics, particularly in dry thickets at lower elevations.

In the Greater Antilles gumbo-limbo is frequently planted as a roadside shade tree.

- [752] The Caribs apply the fragrant gum of gommier rouge locally as a plaster for contusion or internal injury. Because cut posts [417] readily take root and grow, the tree is also used to construct «live» fences.

Specimen citation: 3146.

Dacryodes excelsa Vahl, Skr. Nat. Selsk. 6: 117. 1810.

Dacryodes hezandra Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 174. 1859.

Gommier. — *gibu* («support, buttress»).

A tall columnar tree found in the Antilles from Puerto Rico to Grenada. In Dominica's mountain rain forests the gommier is one of the dominant species.

Throughout the Caribbee isles the straight trunks of this species have been much used in the construction of dugout canoes.

- [314] A white fragrant resinous gum (known to the Caribs as *kurukai*), «gum elemi» exudes freely from any incision made on the slaty gray trunks of gommier rees. The material hardens in the air so the gum can be readily scraped off and put to a number of uses. [302] BRETON (7) records that it served as an unguent used by the youths and maidens on feast days. It is employed to light fires [373] and to make torches [with the wick of pounded bois diable wood (*Licania ternatensis*), tree fern caudex (*Cyathea arborea*), or z'ica-que wood (*Chrysobalanus icaco*)]. Boiled together with shark oil [396] and mixed with cotton-lint, maho fiber (*Gnatteria*, *Hibiscus*, etc.),

X824 nioc. — *kiere* (m), *kāi* (w) — Bitter Manioc. *iúbue* (m), *kamánia*, *kumánana* — Sweet Manioc.

Manioc is one of the most important root crops of the American tropics, and has been long cultivated by the lowland Indians of this region. It is native to South America, probably Brazil (21), but has been introduced into the tropical and sub-tropical regions throughout the world. The first mention of cassava is by Peter MARTYR²⁴, who recorded it from both the American continent and the West Indies to which islands it had probably been carried by the Arawaks and Caribs.

Manioc varieties may be divided into two groups — bitter manioc (manioc amer) and sweet manioc (including manioc doux and camanioc). The bitter varieties contain much greater quantities of poisonous prussic acid, and consequently the sweet forms are treated by some as a separate species or variety.

[241] Many types of manioc amer are cultivated by the Caribs (e. g.: « noir », « blanc », « violet », « bleu », « beurre », « cent-libres », etc.) while only one type each of manioc doux and camanioc are known by them. Red-stalked manioc doux is non-poisonous and may be used as a vegetable either boiled or roasted. It has a better taste than camanioc which, although less poisonous than manioc amer, must be used with caution as a vegetable.

[278] Bitter manioc, in addition to its uses as prepared food, may
● 752 be grated and employed (without the removal of the prussic acid) in the form of a poultice for sores and infected wounds.

252 The roots of bitter manioc are scraped, washed, and grated
X 824 into a « kunu » or cassava trough (*batdia*), and then are squeezed either by wringing in cloths or in the Carib stocking-like basketry contraption known in patois as *couleuvre* [*rukúma* (w), *mátiapi* (m)]. The resulting juice with its prussic acid²⁵ is collected in a receptacle below. The mouchasse or cassava-starch [*tibákulu* (m),

²⁴ Manioc was known to most early historians as *yuca*, a name still used in many parts of tropical America.

²⁵ Into this leached acid Caribs are said to have formerly dipped their arrows in order to poison them, but it is difficult to see how plain dilute manioc-water could have imparted any real poison. This claim seems the more improbable when one realizes that the small indigenous mammals of Dominica suffer no ill effects when fed raw manioc.

824

Richeria grandis Vahl, Eclog. 1: 30. 1796.

Bois Bandé.

This large tree, common in the montane rain-forests of Dominica, ranges from Montserrat to Trinidad.

[314]
[632]
224]

The timber of bois bandé is widely used by the Caribs for boards, while a decoction of the bark is reputed to be an aphrodisiac. Hunters are careful not to cut or slash at this particular species when setting out for the chase for they believe any injury to such trees would cause their hunting to be unsuccessful.

Specimen citation: 567, 1318, 1895.

Ricinus communis Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1007. 1753.

Castor-Bean. — Carapate (from the Carib word, *karapa*, meaning « oil »). — *lamáho* (w), *sulúanú* (m).

A native of the Old World, much cultivated and spontaneous in the West Indies and continental tropical and subtropical America.

[302]

The Castor Bean is planted in every Carib dooryard and is known as carapate (the name more correctly applied to *Carapa guianensis*). Ricinus oil is now substituted for the oil of *Carapa guianensis* for hair dressing. Formerly castor oil was possibly mixed (in place of the oil of *Carapa*) with biset pigment (*Bixa orellana*) to form body paint. The leaves of the Castor Bean are heated and used both as a compress for internal pains and for massaging the spleen. A special blended purgative tea given after parturition uses castor oil as an ingredient (see *Jatropha* spp.); while another tea, a « cure » for gonorrhea, includes the seeds of this plant (see *Solanum torvum*).

[278]
[752]
846]

Specimen citation: 570.

Sapium caribaeum Urban, Symb. Ant. 3: 308. 1902.

La Glu, Lagli. — *ulékene*.

This tree is a native of the higher volcanic islands of the Lesser Antilles, and is recorded from Guadeloupe to St. Vincent. In Dominica it occurs chiefly at middle elevations although on the wetter windward side it approaches the coast.

[223]

The white sap of this species makes the best bird-lime utilized by the Carib. The lime is obtained by making incisions on the

- x 824 Caribs eat the fruits of the monben and formerly used them
[273] to prepare a fermented drink. The fruits are also believed to induce
[853] lactation but it is uncertain how they are employed. Inflamed
● [752] or swollen joints are claimed to be cured by exposing them to
[278] the fumes of the burning kernels of monben fruits. A tea used
[846] to treat sore throat is made from either the leaves or seeds.
[853] Momben leaves are one ingredient in a special purging tea given
after parturition (see *Jatropha* spp.), as well as in another tea
used to induce lactation in women (see *Annona muricata*).

SAPINDACEAE. SOAPBERRY FAMILY.

Cardiospermum halicacabum Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 366. 1753.

Batard Persil

An herbaceous climbing vine growing in tropical regions throughout the world.

- [272] The leaves of batard persil are crushed in water by the Caribs to make what is said to be a refreshing and cooling drink.
Specimen citation: 3289.

Sapindus saponaria Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 367. 1753.

Sapindus inaequalis DeCandolle, Prodr. 1: 608. 1824.

Soapberry, Soap Tree. — Bois Savonette³⁷. — *túlisi* (m), *lúluru* (w).

A tree of lower elevations found in the West Indies and in continental tropical America.

The fruits of the soapberry may be used for washing purposes, and in various parts of the Antilles the seeds are strung to make necklaces.

- [368] Dominica's Caribs employ the bark (« scales ») of *Sapindus*
[278] *saponaria* for soap while a concentrated decoction of the bark is reputed to stop dysentery.

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

³⁷ Not to be confused with two other Dominica trees, *Lonchocarpus* sp., and *Pithecellobium jupunba*, also called bois savonette.

⁸²⁴ This tree is recorded in the West Indies from Jamaica and Hispaniola through the Lesser Antilles to Trinidad. In Dominica the species is most frequent on lower slopes along the windward coast.

²⁷⁸
⁷⁸²
²⁶³ A yellow milky sap is found in the wood of bois chica, and is employed by the Caribs to heal cracked or fissured feet. The ellipsoidal fruits are edible and are sought out particularly by the Indian children.

Specimen citation: 3178, 3360.

Symphonia globulifera Linnaeus filius, Suppl. 302. 1781.

Yellow Mang. — Mang (sometimes spelled Mangle) Blanc, Mang Jaune. — *kulúra*.

This stilt-rooted tree of the wet mountain forests of Dominica is known from tropical continental America as well as from Jamaica, Hispaniola, Guadeloupe, Dominica, St. Lucia, and Trinidad.

³¹³ The Caribs use the timber of mang blanc as a source of shingles, boards, and the like. A yellowish gummy resin is also found in the wood of this species. The gum is hard and friable after contact with the air and has been used by Indian tribes of continental South America for torches, as a caulking material, and as a cement to fix fishbone points to the shafts of their arrows (18).

A pitch-like resin, called *mani*, obtained from the wood of the closely related *Moronobea coccinea* Aublet of the continental tropics of America, is similarly used by aborigines of the basins of the Orinoco and Amazon rivers. For example, ROTH (43) refers to *mani* and its use in his discussion of the Indians of Guiana. Curiously, a blackish resin, also called *mani*, is employed by the Caribs of Dominica for strengthening home-made la pite (*Ananas*) twine⁴⁴. It was first thought, since *Moronobea coccinea* does not occur in Dominica, that the local *mani* was derived from the yellow resin of mang blanc (*Symphonia*) but this is apparently not the case. Lumps of *mani* are always collected along the windward beaches where they are apparently tossed by the sea at certain seasons, particularly during « Carême » (February to

⁴⁴ *Mani* is put to a use similar to that which beeswax performs in sewing.

Periwinkle. — Caca Poule. — *kakuti*, *udlukuti*.

An ornamental, widely planted and often naturalized in tropical regions.

A tea made from the leaves of caca poule is used by Caribs to treat diabetes and is also used to combat primary inertia in childbirth.

[278
847]

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

Tabernaemontana citrifolia Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 210. 1753.

Bois Lait.

A small tree of Jamaica and the Lesser Antilles and found commonly in Dominica at lower elevations.

The brittle twigs of bois lait contain an acrid milky juice which is used by the Carib to allay pain in an aching tooth.

[278
752]

Specimen citation: 3160, 3223.

ASCLEPIADACEAE. MILKWEED FAMILY.

Asclepias curassavica Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 215. 1753.

Red Milkweed.

A common weedy plant of fields and waste grounds in south-eastern United States, the West Indies, and tropical continental America.

The Caribs consider the root of this plant to be a good febrifuge.

[278]

Specimen citation: 3212.

CONVOLVULACEAE. BINDWEED FAMILY.

Ipomoea batatas (Linnaeus) Lamarck, Encycl. 6: 14. 1804.

Sweet Potato, Patate. — *mabi*⁴⁹, *ule* (generic name for edible roots or tubers).

Sweet potatoes are cultivated throughout warm temperate and tropical regions for their edible roots. Although this species is of

⁴⁹ CHANCA (69) records this Carib name as *nabi*; apparently the words *mabi* and *ule* were used of any tuberous food. The Taino equivalent was *age*. LOVEN (37) considers *age* to be true yams (*Dioscorea* spp.) but he is possibly mistaken for most of the edible species of this genus are plants of the Old World tropics introduced very early into the Antilles.

- x 824 Leaves of mirette, when pounded with an oil, are used by the
[278] Carib as a poultice for boils or carbuncles.
● 753 Specimen citation: 3263.

VERBENACEAE. VERVAIN FAMILY.

Aegiphila martinicensis Jacquin, Obs. Bot. 2: 3. 1764.
Bois Cabrit.

A shrub or small tree of the West Indies and continental tropical America. In Dominica this species occurs in woodlands and thickets chiefly at lower elevations.

[223] The fruits and seeds of bois cabrit are employed by the Caribs
[278] as a lure or bait in snares set for birds, while leaves of this species
755 are an ingredient in a ritual bath used to combat diarrhea (see
Ocimum micranthum).

Specimen citation: 3320.

Clerodendrum fragrans var. *pleniflorum* Schauer in DC. Prod.
11: 666. 1847.

Fragrant Clerodendrum. — Moselle.

This double-flowered plant, originally cultivated in the West Indies, has now become extensively naturalized in the Caribbean area.

[278] The Island Carib of Dominica inhales the fragrance of the fresh flower as a cure when suffering from a headache.

Specimen citation: 864, 3308.

Corantia pyramidata Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 628. 1753.

Bois Cassave.

This small shrubby tree occurs throughout the West Indies and Central America and occurs in Dominica on lower open slopes.

A stain may be obtained from the juicy blue fruits. This is used by the Creoles of Dominica as a sort of blue ink; if the juice is boiled with lime juice a red ink is formed.

[386] The juice of the fruits provides a blue-black stain sometimes
278 used by Caribs for coloring thread and cloth, while the leaves are one of the ingredients of a tea used in the cure of painful retroverted uterus (see *Annona muricata*).

Specimen citation: 19 (T), 869, 3275.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

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W. H. HODGE AND DOUGLAS TAYLOR

⁸²⁴ However no authentic herbarium material of this species has been collected on Dominica.

Tabebuia pallida (Lindley) Miers, Proc. Roy. Hort. Soc. 3: 199. 1863⁴².

White Cedar. — Poirier Blanc.

White cedar is a familiar tree of Central America and Venezuela, and in the West Indies is to be found from Hispaniola to Trinidad. In Dominica it grows commonly in the drier coastal localities.

[314] This fine timber tree is said by the Caribs to exist as «red»
[396] and «white» varieties of which the former is preferred for
timber. Poirier wood lasts well in salt water, and is used for the
ribs and for the built-up sides of dugouts; it is employed also
in the construction of mortars, wooden bowls, floor boards, and
the like. The bark of the tree, used as a plaster, is said to cure
[278] corns. The leaves, either whole or chopped up finely, are placed
[752] on sores as a poultice. For a further use of this species see *Ipomoea*
pes-caprae.

Specimen citation: 839, 3292.

GESNERIACEAE. GESNERIA FAMILY.

Episcia melittifolia (Linnaeus) Martius, Nov. Gen. 3: 42. 1829.
L'Oseille.

A beautiful herbaceous plant common in moist ravines and wet forests of Dominica and Guadeloupe, principally at middle elevations.

[278] The leaves and pink flowers of this species, like those of *Begonia dominicalis* (also called l'oseille) are used by the Caribs to make a tea for colds.

Specimen citation: 827, 828, 829, 830, 1162, 1199, 1345, 1444, 1855, 2212, 2335, 3122, 3241, 3555.

⁴² The leaves of this species vary from a unifoliate to a multifoliate condition often on the same plant. A number of segregates have been described based on incomplete specimens showing these variations.